

In the quarter to which they apply, we have only to add, that the Lord Mayor's entertainment, on the 10th instant, was conducted with an abundant display of civic hospitality. The guests were nearly 200 in number, comprising the presidents of the Royal Society; the Geographical Society; the College of Physicians; the Entomological, Botanical, Linnæan, and Numismatic Societies; the leading professors of science and literature at Oxford and Cambridge, as well as those of University College, and King's College, London. J. B.

THE PAINTED WINDOW IN ST. JAMES'S.

"We learn that the committee have sent special instructions to Mr. Walter that he is to take out of his design every thing Gothic. As well might you tell a man who brought you a French book when you wanted an English one, to take out of it every thing French. The window is essentially Gothic,—scholarly Gothic, and no alteration can possibly be made for St. James's Church. Can anything be done to induce the committee still further to modify their original determination, and so avoid the lasting annoyance they will otherwise lay up for themselves? They know they are in error, yet fear to retrace their steps."—*Vide Builder, Vol. III., No. 136.*

The preceding quotation, Mr. Builder, is, I believe, your parting remonstrance and advice, and excellent advice withal to the committee last year, when there was yet time for them to have retrieved their error. On entering again upon this subject, which I am induced to do from your notice of the window being erected, I will no further advert to the decision of the committee, upon a design which they were evidently shamed out of (by you and your correspondents), and in direct and open violation of their own specified conditions* than to state, that it was a direct breach of integrity in a mis-called competition in the selection of a design which could by no possibility be adopted, and, consequently, was without a claim; conduct which none but a body of individuals could be found to exhibit, and which would be considered a breach of honour and a disgrace to any private gentleman so acting in his individual capacity.

Your notice of the work itself induced me to visit the church to ascertain how far, as you say, it is "less obtrusively objectionable;" and so struck was I at the metamorphosis from the former design, that, notwithstanding my reverence for the place, I had great difficulty in restraining myself from cackination at the way in which your excellent advice was adopted. So utterly unfit is this work still for St. James's Church, that it is a great shame it should ever have been placed there, and a much greater one to let it remain.

In your Vol. III., No. 133, you state:—"Feeling, however, strongly on the subject, and knowing full well that if this wrong step be taken it may be the prelude to many others, &c." However much I might have sympathized with you in this feeling, there is now happily no cause for the apprehension of that, excepting, perhaps, from the negative wisdom of the same committee. For I fearlessly state, that there is not a single artistic feeling in the whole window. The Mosaic part, which occupies nearly the whole of its space, is composed of a monstrously wide and uncalled-for border—properly stated, apparently by themselves, in the *Morning Post*, thus:—"From the great width of the Romanesque Mosaic border, there is small space left for the paintings." Sir, this said Romanesque Mosaic border is the veriest glazier's-shopified frippery ever exhibited, and the artist must have had a kaleidoscope in his eye during the whole time of its execution. Is this Byzantine? Is this Romanesque? I designate it the Berlin wool style, and of which there are many better examples a few doors from thence; this, too, containing attributes, emblems, and minute figures of the most meagre description. As for the "pictures," if they are to be considered, they are an effort at drawing without arriving at it; they are imagined conventionally, and have, accordingly, the vilest blue back-ground, having neither connection, nor union, nor harmony with the grand Berlin wool border.

What an anomaly is this window with the interior, which is beautiful even in its tears, for grievous is the inroad upon its charming symmetry. Truly, Sir, despite our ecclesiastical, archaeological, and architectural anxieties, together with your own efforts to obtain

propriety, and the march of intellect into the bargain, we are doing strange things, blaming our too puritanical ancestors, correcting and removing churchwardensisms, and in the very same breath Gothifying Italian, and Italianizing Gothic, thereby leaving similar bequests and blunders to our successors, entailed through the ignorance or incompetency of those entrusted with the care of our public buildings. Surely those entrusted with the carrying out of our public works ought to take care, that they do not place works and examples before the misinformed and uninitiated which may not be studied and followed. This is the great and lamentable aim of the window in question.

What a glorious opportunity was here, an interior beautiful and eloquent in taste and elegance, a window so charmingly constructed for an expensive idea, that it would have inspired an Angelo, a Raffaele, or a Rubens, to a more than ordinary devotion.

It has been stated, as quoted in yours, that "glass from its intractable nature can only be applied in one particular way as an architectural mosaic embellishment." This I beg most strongly to deny, and need only to point to the window of St. Margaret's, Westminster (which puts this work to shame, semi-Gothic though it is), also to the glorious pictorial conceptions in King's College Chapel, Cambridge, to St. Godard, and St. Patrice, at Rouen; to Lord Salisbury's chapel at Hatfield House, to Lincoln College Chapel, Oxford, &c. &c. &c., some of which are pictorially beautiful, and all exhibit a practicability of properly adapting this art (still in its infancy) to high pictorial purposes, and consequently to Italian buildings. Pictures, indeed, may and are being produced, as fine as on canvases, with the advantage of richer colouring, and worthy a place in the Royal Academy, or even the Vatican itself. Mr. Wilmshurst has proved this in a great measure in his picture of the Tournament, some fifteen years since, and which, considering the then position of the art, was a most successful one, and this, be it remembered, not upon the coloured enamel principle, or as it may be termed china painting at large, but uniting ancient mode with artistic skill, in the true meaning of the word. Not only this, I have glass in my possession painted during the fifteenth century (continental), which is treated in the highest style of art; a portion of a picture as expansive, or nearly so, as the window now in question. In conclusion, I beg to ask, how did our decorators manage at the time of the erection of these structures? Is not Whitehall and the dome of St. Paul's an answer? How are our brethren abroad managing similar matters? Those who have seen the beautiful works of Overbeck and Henri Heise, in the Bavarian chapel at Munich, will be well able to answer,—"as Inigo Jones and Sir C. Wren would have advised, as Rubens would have done." No Romanesque, no Mosaic there. In short, the idea of Moresco Byzantine, or Romanesque, with pure Greek, or Italian, is, in my opinion, too absurd to deserve an argumentation upon the subject. And, Sir, with a view to impede the wild progress of this wilder notion, from a love of consistency in art, together with a hope that I may at least provoke a discussion upon it, and consequently a consideration of the question ere other repetitions of this mistake take place, I raise this my voice, and protest against it; and thus on my reputation, experience, and judgment, upon principle and in practice, I pronounce on this work in question its sister condemnation.—I am, Sir, &c.

WILLIAM WARRINGTON.

42, Berkeley-street West,
Hyde-park-square, July 15, 1846.

TOPOGRAPHICAL LANDMARKS.—The old half-way house in the Kensington road, which for long years has stood between the pathway and the road, looking as if it had straggled there by accident and couldn't budge farther, is going—nay, gone. The builder of Ennismore gardens, a pile of houses about to rise opposite to the building alluded to, has purchased it, and will form a handsome entrance to the park in its place. Honest waggons, who inherit traditions of this ancient resting-place from dead and gone grandfathers, shake their heads and say things are coming to an end.

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

At Liverpool, the banquet to Prince Albert, the preparations for the ceremonies at the Sailors' Home and the Albert Docks, and the series of configurations elsewhere noticed, were the chief subjects of interest in course of last week. A discussion has unfortunately arisen in the sub-committee of the council regarding certain invitations to the banquet. As for the prince himself, he appears to have been as liberally as graciously pleased to say, that he wished to see "everybody" there; but the mayor and others are understood to have objected to somebody—the Roman Catholic bishops. It appears—being invited, in general accordance with the prince's desire. It is now regretted, that the tickets of admission to view the ceremony of the stone-laying, the opening of the Albert Docks, and the dejeuner, were not sold, as 5,000, to 6,000, might have been thus raised for distribution amongst the charities, or for the erection of the Sailors' Home itself. A list of the contributors to the latter institution, printed on vellum, is to be deposited with the current coins in the glass jar to be placed under the foundation stone. It is said that her Majesty the Queen will go round in the royal yacht, the *Victoria and Albert*, and accompany her royal spouse to Scotland. The place appropriated for the dejeuner is a first-floor room of one of the extensive new warehouses attached to the Albert Docks. These buildings are erected on brick arches; the beams being supported with iron beams, and the walls fire-proof, and destitute of timber throughout. The room itself is 98 feet long by 55 feet wide, and is provided with seats for about 700. The beams, arch, walls, &c., are painted for the occasion. The floor and a staircase are to be covered with crimson cloth, and the side walls are to be draped in flutings of alternate blue, white, and pink. The preparations at the site of the Sailors' Home are in rapid progress. Galleries are in course of erection round the sides of the excavation. The dock is to be opened by the Prince and his suite in the royal yacht, the *Enry*, and strong stages, in the form of an amphitheatre, are being fitted up along the sheds of the whole pile of warehouses on the south and west. On Tuesday last week the foundation-stone of St. Simon's parish church was laid on the site of the old church in Gloucester-street by the Rev. Rector Brooks. Mr. Hay is the architect. The Oxford town council have appointed a committee to provide suitable bathing places for the public, free of charge. One such place has been already obtained.—The Sheffield merchants, it is said, have lately been called on by the agent of a German manufacturer with patterns of various sorts of cutlery, as well as of saws, files, and edge tools; and the price and quality of some of the articles are such as actually to command a sale!—The foundation-stone of the new church to be erected at Bishop's Sutton has been laid. The cost (including school-room) is estimated at 2,200*l.*, of which, 1,300*l.* have been already subscribed.—The parish church of St. Mary, Kidderminster, is to be restored and improved at a cost of 2,000*l.* subscribed by the patron and the neighbouring clergy, and 700*l.* by the inhabitants.—The Earl of Ellesmere has deferred the re-erection of his ancient town mansion, Bridgewater-house, until next spring, owing, it is said, to a pending law-suit between the earl and the parish relative to some ground required for the site.—On Sunday week Sutton Drawbridge was literally wrenched out of its place, and pulled down by the rigging of a Wisbech brig while passing through. The mass (about sixteen tons weight) broke away the vessel's stern, and destroyed her boat.—The citizens of Glasgow have been presented by Mr. Campbell, of Tili-chewan, with a right of access to the Botanic Gardens during the five days of the city fair, purchased by him for 200*l.* paid to the Botanic Institution.

FALL OF A CHURCH.—A few days since the roof and a great portion of the walls of the church of Haute-Rivoire (Rhône) fell in with a great crash. The damage is so considerable, that the whole building must be re-erected. The edifice was lately built, and the inhabitants of the commune were so dissatisfied with the work, that they refused to pay for it. The matter was brought before the courts of law, and given against them.

* *Vide Builder, Vol. III., No. 134.*
† *Morning Post, July 6, 1846.*